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OCTOBER TRIP TO ROSS AND THE MARIN LAKES

Sunday, October 10, was foggy in the early morning, but it soon cleared to one of those perfect days. Nineteen members and guests showed up at Ross where we birded for an hour or so, one golden-crowned kinglet being the highlight here. The group then drove to Phoenix Lake and hiked around the north side of the lake and up to Lake Lagunitas for lunch. The only water birds seen at these two lakes were 3 pied-billed grebes. After lunch we visited Bon Tempe Lake where we found 4 Mallards, one Great Blue Heron, two Spotted Sandpipers and an adult Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk). We wondered if the latched could have been the same bird as the one seen here on the December 13 trip last year. Obviously the trip was too early in the season for the Hooded Mergansers and other unusual water birds that winter on these lakes. The following 42 species were observed.

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Violet-green Swallow, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wren-tit, Winter Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton Vireo, Townsend Warbler, House Finch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian*.

OBSERVATIONS. CANYON WREN, near St. Mary's College, Oct. 8 (Arthur S. Campbell); VARIED THRUSH, El Cerrito, Nov. 21 (A. L. Curl); COWBIRD, El Cerrito, Nov. 13 (ALC); WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, Juanita Way, San Francisco, Oct. 30 and subsequently (Bradley S. Sibley); Lafayette Square, San Francisco, Nov. 2 (Geo. T. Kilham); see also write-up of Oct. 30 Tilden Park Trip.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS. On Tuesday, November 30, the speaker will be Laurel Reynolds, former president of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, "Garden Sanctuary". There will be no Screen Tour Lecture in December.

OCTOBER TRIP TO TILDEN PARK

Saturday, October 30, was a perfect sunny fall day for a lazy bird walk in Tilden Park. After seeing the birds around Summit Reservoir on Spruce Street, the group of 25 interested people took advantage of sunny skies, autumn foliage and the early arrival of winter visitants to see Tilden Park and its Nature Area. The feature of the trip was the appearance of a circling flock of about 400 White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) high above the eastern wall of the park (San Pablo Ridge), perhaps even over San Pablo Reservoir. Their white bodies and wings contrasted sharply with their black wing tips in the brilliant sunshine. A white-throated sparrow in adult plumage was discovered by Harold Peterson on the west side of Jewel Lake and was seen by a part of the group. A part of the group visited Bear Creek Road east of San Pablo Reservoir after lunch. The following 57 species were recorded.

Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Green Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Rail, Sora (?), Coot, Glaucous-winged Gull, California Gull, Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wren-tit, Winter Wren, Bewick Wren, Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton Vireo, Audubon Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Lesser (Green-backed) Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— ARTHUR H. MYER, *Leader and Historian*.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Golden Gate Audubon Society will hold its annual San Francisco count on Sunday, December 26. There will be 14 parties this year and the starting time is 8 a.m. Those wishing to help please sign up with the individual leaders or with the chairman. The groups, leaders, and meeting places follow: (1) Marina-Fine Arts, Arthur Bennett at Fine Arts Palace; (2) Bayshore-McLaren Park, A. Laurence Curl, Mission St. and Silver Ave.; (3) Land's End and Lincoln Park, Harold G. Peterson at Sutro Heights; (4) Golden Gate Park, 31st to Beach, Dr. Albert Boles at Fulton and 30th Ave.; (5) Golden Gate Park, 31st to 10th Ave., Joel Hedgpeth, Fulton and 10th Ave.; (6) Golden Gate Park, 10th to Baker St., Mrs. Enid Austin, at Fulton and 10th Ave.; (7) Lake Merced and Fleishhacker Zoo, Loris P. Smith, at Playfield; (8) Twin Peaks and Stern Grove, Carl L. Carson, at Stern Grove; (9) Ocean Beach and Seal Rocks, Sandy Sprunt, at Seal Rocks; (10) Presidio, Carlyle Sather at Lombard St. entrance; (11) Wharves and Bay, Peter A. Veitch at Aquatic Park; (12) Treasure Island (restricted), L. Richard Leinbach; (13) Smaller City Parks,, Robert R. Chase, at Civic Center; (14) Marin Shoreline, at north end of Golden Gate Bridge. For further information call or write the Chairman, Arthur H. Myer, 25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5, Phone BErkeley 7-3080.

NOVEMBER TRIP TO JOICE ISLAND

Sunday, November 14, found some 45 persons at Joice Island State Game Refuge in Suisun Bay. The morning skies held a promise of rain so we lost no time in taking a walk of about three miles along the levee roads. Birds were fairly abundant but as the hunting season had closed only the previous day, the birds were very wary. This combined with the overcast sky made observation difficult. The birding was cut short by the threatened rain which arrived during lunch. The following 61 species were observed.

Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Snowy Egret, American Bittern, Whistling Swan, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, White-tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Florida Gallinule, Coot, Killdeer, Wilson Snipe, Least Sandpiper, Glaucous-winged Gull, California Gull, Bonaparte Gull, Short-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Hermit Thrush, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Audubon Warbler, Yellow-throat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Leader and Historian*.

The November issue of the National Geographic Magazine contained an article by John H. Baker, President of the National Audubon Society, entitled "Saving Man's Wildlife Heritage". This 40-page article, illustrated with 49 beautiful pictures in color plus 11 in black-and-white, covers the principal activities, past and present, of the Society. A reprint of this article was received by the editor and was apparently sent to all National members.

"The Value of the Christmas Bird Counts" is a timely article which appeared in the September 1954 number of the WILSON BULLETIN under the authorship of Paul A. Stewart of the Department of Zoology and Entomology of The Ohio State University. In this same issue was an article "The Hawk Pass at Duluth, Minnesota", by P. B. Hofslund. Counts made of hawks which passed a lookout within the city of Duluth showed that this spot rivals Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania. It was announced in this number that Dr. Keith Dixon of the Department of Wildlife Management of Texas A and M, formerly of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, will be the Editor of the Bulletin in 1955. The Wilson Club is considering the lead of the Cooper Club in changing the name to "Society".

The Golden Gate Audubon Society receives as exchanges THE AUK, THE CONDOR, THE WILSON BULLETIN, NATURAL HISTORY, and numerous bulletins of local Audubon Societies. These publications are received by the editor and are delivered by him to the Rotary Natural Science Center at Lake Merritt in Oakland at irregular intervals. These magazines are in the custody of Paul Covell, Oakland Park Naturalist, who would appreciate occasional assistance from GGAS members in keeping them in proper order.

DECEMBER MEETING

The 447th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the Commissioners Room of the San Francisco Public Library on Thursday, December 9. Following the business meeting, Mr. Albert J. Wool, of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, will show a color film "Wildlife of the Mt. Hamilton Range". Mrs. Myra Browne will report on the National Audubon Society Convention which was held in New York City on November 13 - 16.

— MRS. BUDD J. SMITH, *Program Chairman.*

DECEMBER TRIP TO CONN LAKE

On Sunday, December 12, to Conn Lake in Napa County. This is an unusually good trip for waterfowl during the hunting season as it is a game refuge. Last year we saw 87 species on this trip including 16 species of ducks, also Red-shouldered Hawks, Osprey and Golden Eagle. Transportation by private car. Meet at the bridge on the Silverado Trail a mile or so north of Napa at 9:30. The turnoff for Conn Lake is on the Silverado Trail about 16 miles north of Napa. Leader, Leland Stallcup. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescope and interested friends.

— FRANK A. SCOTT, *Field Trips Chairman.*

OAKLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The East Bay Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, January 2. The area to be covered is the same as last year and is bounded by circle 15 miles in diameter centered near Lake Temescal. It includes the water front from Point Isabel to Bay Farm Island, San Leandro and San Pablo Reservoirs, Lafayette, Orinda, Tilden, Redwood and Temescal Regional Parks, Lake Merritt, the University of California and Mills College campi, and other areas within the 15-mile circle. Suggestions for new areas to be covered within our 15-mile circle will be welcomed. Members operating feeding stations or who see unusual birds in their yards are urged to send in their lists. Leaders have yet to assigned to some areas. For further information call or write the chairman, A. Laurence Curl, LA. 6-7004, 751 Balra Drive, El Cerrito 8. Let's have still more participants this year!

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

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Chairman.....L. R. Leinbach.....201 Purdue Ave., Berkeley 8, LA. 6-7649
Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$5.00 per year, includes Audubon Magazine. Local Membership only, \$1.50 per year.

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